



WOOD SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

March 1997

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I felt very honoured and a great sense of history when elected President at the AGM. My Uncle Bryan was the first President when the Institute was founded forty years ago and he was followed some twenty years later by his son Christopher. Both were passionate supporters of the Institute Courses and its role as independent arbiter of the timber industry's educational standards.

I would like to thank Martin Ansell for the excellent job he has done as President. He was a relative new-comer to Council when he was elected, rising with what might be considered for a body like ours, unseemly haste. He therefore brought to the job an open mind and the desire to make his mark, coupled with experience of similar organisations. Martin has contributed in a number of areas. Comments he made at the Bristol Conference about the fragmented nature and resulting ineffectiveness of much of the work done by the plethora of Trade bodies, notably in the field of promotion, have found an echo in the foundation of the Timber Industry Alliance. The Institute is an educational advisor to the Alliance and our Director represents us at meetings.

Martin was keen for the Institute to forge links with other professional bodies and this has

resulted in the joint Branch meetings with RIBA. It will no doubt continue to take hard work at Branch level to successfully develop these very worthwhile ventures. Martin has also championed the development of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Institute members. There have been discussions at Committee and Council level about membership classification but no obvious way forward found.

I am sure that every in-coming President asks the same question, namely "what is the role of the Institute and is it still relevant to the membership today?". Clearly the starting point is the work of the Education Committee in establishing the courses and monitoring the Certificate and Associate examinations. Both these courses have been extensively reviewed over the past few years and now include a large element of distance learning, while maintaining the educational rigour. The Certificate course has been well received and the number of students taking it is encouraging. However, numbers taking the excellent new Associate course are disappointing and too many young people are missing out on continuing their studies. Perhaps the Certificate course is just too good!

The local branch network is an important element of the Institute. The programme of meetings shows the wide range of speakers and subjects.

Much of the work in organising this falls on the same people. The challenge to us all is to get more people involved.

A look at the last issue of the Journal demonstrates its international nature with papers from around the globe. Clearly the primary role is to provide an outlet for scientific papers on wood science research but a balance is struck to insure that some papers are accessible to the general reader.

I remember hearing at a council meeting a few years ago that people would not attend a conference in Scotland. Last year's conference proved how wrong that was thanks to the hard work of the Conference committee and the generous major sponsorship from CSC. This year's conference in Windsor will be rather more relaxed, with fewer papers, giving time for one longer paper and more time for discussion. Major sponsorship is being given by the American Hardwood Export Council. Without this it would not be possible to run a conference to such a standard at the current bargain price! We are also receiving support from CSC and Protim and TTL are binding the conference papers. The programme looks very exciting so I hope to see many members there.

Peter Latham B.A. MIWSc President



Dr. Martin Ansell and Peter Latham

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE YET?

**National Conference
4/6 April 1997 at the
Castle Hotel, Windsor.**

**It's not too late if you
phone the office
(01494 565374) or
fax (01494 565395)**

BUT HURRY!!

COUNSEL AND COUNCIL

THE INSTITUTE'S COURSES

By the time this is read, the major review and re-write of the Institute's Certificate course will be complete. In five modules, with each module comprising two work books and a project book, the Certificate course provides a comprehensive understanding of wood as a material, its processing, its use and many of the legislative requirements concerned with its trading.

Who needs the course? Indeed, why bother to provide it and go to the trouble of making it relevant to 1997?

We are in a commercial environment where effective performance is essential. Today, as many seek to explain how this is achieved as set out to achieve it. A demonstration of competence is a measure of this but it is only truly effective if there is an understanding of the process, whether it is one of selection or procedure. An operator may perform a task adequately but he will do so better if he understands the process and, especially, if when handling a natural and variable commodity such as wood, when he understands what determines its behaviour and successful use. It is this knowledge which the Institute's courses provide.

The Institute's courses are relevant to anyone handling wood and wood products, whether trading in them, processing them or in any way using them. As with any education process, some aspects will be more relevant for an individual than others, but concentration in training on and expectation and dependence of continued employment based on a narrow base of skills or knowledge have long since given way to a need for breadth and flexibility in both. This is as true for the employer as for the employee.

For the employer, a knowledgeable and mobile workforce and for the employee the ability to adapt and, with a broad understanding of the technologies involved, to adapt quickly are essential for competitive advancement and advantage. The Institute's courses give this edge to both employers, with an informed and more thoughtful workforce, and employees, with improved performance and demonstration of advancement.

A restructuring of the courses has made possible a flexibility in their presentation. For many years they were taken on the basis of college attendance, either by day or block release, and, while this must remain the preferred method with access to the wide range of machine and other facilities associated with the courses, nevertheless it is practicable to undertake them by other means, as part of a company training programme or by individual effort, provided that these alternative methods are followed with the guidance of a training supervisor. A significant effort is needed and a demonstration of initiative in seeking information; this is recognised by an on-going appraisal of performance throughout the course and this forms a significant component of the final assessment. However, in order to demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge acquired, there is also an examination at the end of each course.

The Institute's qualifications which can be obtained on successful completion of its courses, the Certificated Membership of the Institute, CMIWSc, and Associate Membership, AIWSc, are qualifications which demonstrate a sound knowledge of the technology of wood and wood products. They are a credit to the person with them and they should be sought by employers in those whom they employ if they are to have a workforce which brings an understanding and initiative to what they are doing and so help to provide a competitive advantage.

For more information on the content of the Institute's courses and how they can be taken, phone Freda Robinson on 01494 565374 or write to the office.

Dr. J.D. Brazier FIWSc (Hon) Chairman Education Committee

MEMBERSHIP - A PERSONAL VIEW

A feature of the meetings which struck me when I joined the Membership Committee some three years ago, and which still obtains, was the very constant level of membership - in all categories.

Healthy, you might think, and I would agree that a decline in the figures would give rise to concern. However, the terms "plateauing" and "stagnation" also come to mind.

The committee considers a steady trickle of applications by new members, which are immediately offset by resignations, deaths and, most commonly, resignations by default, ie by failing to keep up subscription payments.

I do not wish to be alarmist. Ours is an excellent Institute with a lively "core" of active and dedicated members, but membership levels could be better.

Much effort went into recruiting for the new "Member" grade when it was introduced in 1991, quite quickly increasing the overall UK membership by over 10%. I believe that there is still untapped potential for new members, particularly within this category and would urge us all to think of colleagues and friends in the industry who might qualify.

A word about the new membership grade (between Associate and Fellow), much discussed in 1995 and 1996 and now seemingly "on ice". I believe that this would have provided an important additional level of membership, attainable by those Associates who merit recognition for their services to the Institute, but who will never achieve Fellowship grade.

A missed opportunity? Not, if as I hope the subject can be opened again.

B.J. Norris AIWSc Chairman Membership Committee

IWSC COUNCIL MEMBERS 1996/97

President

Mr. P.D.L. Latham

Officers

Dr. R.J. Murphy	Senior Vice President
Mr. T.G. Bagnall	Vice President
Mr. W.G. Keating	Vice President
Mr. J.G.R. Perry	Treasurer
Mr. D.E. Woodbridge	Editor

Elected Members

Mr. P. Barden
Dr. P. Bonfield
Mr. D.O. Carney
Mr. A. Comben
Mr. J. Coulson
Prof. E.J. Gibson
Mr. P.G. Harris
Mr. B. Matthews
Mr. A.C. McGregor
Mr. B.J. Norris
Mr. S.E. Orley
Mr. J.H. Park
Mrs. P.K. Pilgrim
Dr. L.R.J. Whale
Mr. R.B.P. White

Past Presidents

Dr. M.P. Ansell
Dr. D.S. Belford
Dr. J.D. Brazier
Dr. G.K. Elliott
Mr. C.G.A. Latham
Prof. J.F. Levy
Mr. C.C. Lorenzen
Mr. T.S. Mallinson
Mr. K. Purcell
Miss. J. Taylor
Mr. R. Venables
Dr. D.J.B. White

Chairmen of Branches

Dr. H. Greaves	Australian
Dr. J.A. Evertsen	Irish
Mr. T.G. Bagnall	Liverpool
Dr. R.J. Murphy	London
Mr. T.E. Shaw	Midland
Dr. J.W. Palfreyman	Scottish
Dr. V. Kearley	Thames Valley & Chilterns
Mr. T. J. Phillips	Western Counties
Mr. N.P. Ryan	Yorkshire

Education committee

Dr. J.D. Brazier (Chairman)
Mr. C.J. Jones
Mr. R.T. Juson
Mr. B. Matthews
Mr. T.E. Shaw
Mr. R.E. Smith
Mr. L.B. Woodhouse

Membership Committee

Mr. B.J. Norris (Chairman)
Dr. J.D. Brazier
Mr. A. Comben
Mr. R.A. Plumptre
Dr. L.D.A. Saunders
Miss. J. Taylor

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Dr. R.J. Murphy (Chairman)
Dr. M.P. Ansell
Mr. T.G. Bagnall
Dr. J.D. Brazier
Mr. P.D.L. Latham
Mr. K. Purcell

Conference Committee

Mr. P.D.L. Latham (Chairman)
Dr. V.C. Kearley
Mr. B. Keyworth
Mr. D.E. Woodbridge

Director M.W. Holloway
Secretariat Freda Robinson

HONOURS BOARD

A FIRST FOR THE IWSc AND THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland for 1997/98 will be the Rev. Alexander McDonald B.A. CMIWSc. The first Moderator was John Knox and for certain, Sandy as he is better known is Scotland, will be the first IWSc member to hold this the highest office in the Church of Scotland. Sandy will preside at the General Assembly and during his year in office his duties will take him to India, Thailand, New Zealand and much of Europe carrying greetings of the Assembly and giving encouragement to ministers.

On formal occasions the Moderator wears the 18th Century dress with lace cuffs and distinctive lace jabot which dates from the 16th century when the Moderator was required to attend the Scottish Court at the Palace of Holyrood House. The Moderator also wears as a symbol of office, a large amethyst ring inscribed with the Burning Bush emblem of the Church of Scotland.

Sandy began his timber career in 1954 with Brownlee & Co Ltd, City Sawmills, Port Dundas, Glasgow and studied at Stow College of Building for Certificates in Timber Trade Practice and Timber Technology organised in those days by the Timber Development Association. When he was called up for National Service in the R.A.F. he had already completed the courses and when the IWSc was formed he became one of the first Certificated Members and has continued in membership ever since.

He recalls his early connection with the trade whilst at Brownlee & Co which was a very informative time of his life. He worked in nearly every department of the company embracing hardwoods, softwoods, plywoods, milling, joinery manufacturing, the early days of tanalising and importantly administration and management which meant he had a very significant business training before beginning his studies in Arts and Theology at Glasgow University.

His six years at university leading to graduation and Ordination led him eventually to an Industrial Parish in central Scotland where as well as being parish minister he served as Industrial Chaplain to British Leyland and the National Coal Board. The early days in timber meant an easy understanding of industrial practice and getting alongside the workforce. When called on to spend a shift underground in the local coal mine he well remembers a discussion with the men at the coal face about the relative benefits of timber as opposed to steel for pit props.

In 1988 he was invited to become General Secretary of the Church of Scotland Board of Ministry which took him back to management and administration and again early training was a great bonus even to the extent of addressing the problems of wood destroying beetles and fungi in the large amount of property owned and managed by the Church.

When he was nominated as Moderator Designate of the Church of Scotland in October 1996 Sandy was asked about the importance of his early life and training and said "It is hard to believe that all that I have done could play a part in what I am now called to do for the church all over the world but nothing has been a waste of time. I am very grateful to all those who taught me so much in the Timber Trade and my continuing membership of the Institute of Wood Science and my friendship with those who worked with me in Brownlee & Co., are still most important parts of my life."

"My grandfather had a sawmill in Callander driven by a water wheel, my father was a joiner and designer of timber furniture and given I spent a number of years in the Timber Trade I could be called a 'Chip off the old block' or now that I am minister in the church I suppose I could be called 'One of The Carpenters helpers'"

We wish Sandy a very rewarding and fruitful term in office. Ed.

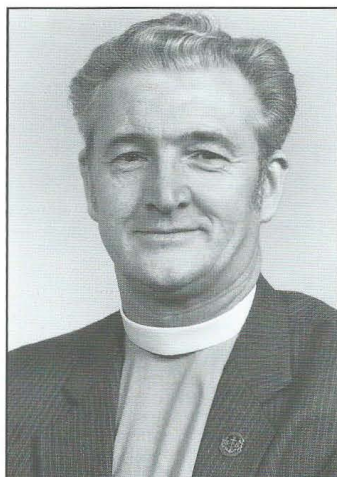
PAST PRESIDENT HONOURED

Our warmest congratulations to Dr Geoff Elliott FIWSc who was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours for Services to Forestry and Wood Science.

Geoff was President of the IWSc in 1983/84.

He has held many posts including international consultancies in forestry, timber utilisation and trade including I.T.T.O. He was Managing Director of Price & Pierce Technical Services Ltd and has held the office of Chairman of Forests Forever Executive Board and has advised the Timber Trade Federation on a wide range of Trade - related issues.

He has been an active and enthusiastic member of the IWSc and his Honour is richly deserved.



Rev. Alexander McDonald

CPD

The Institute's CPD initiative has been in place for a year. Although one can hardly describe the response to the scheme as dramatic there has, over the year, been a steady flow of enquiries. They have mostly been related to the possibilities of raising the status of membership from Certificate to Associate and in some cases as a route to transfer from a member to an Associate. We have also had a number of overseas enquiries.

In most cases we have been able to recommend a study programme that includes elements of CPD (usually as an alternative to the Associateship optional modules), the submission of a suitable dissertation and the completion of the core module (by distance learning) and examination.

However, the idea of CPD should not be totally pegged to an improvement in membership category. In fact the real objective of CPD is to keep up to date with technology, industrial or commercial developments and, above all, to enhance ones own professionalism.

It is therefore, through these columns, that we would like some feed back on the types and frequency of CPD activities that have been undertaken by members. It would also be valuable to know whether they are being recorded in the forms provided, either in the Institute's Personal Organizer or on the separate sheets that are available from the head office.

To assist in this feed back we list below the most probable headings:

- IWSc Annual Conference
- IWSc Branch Meetings
- External presentations and courses
- In-house courses
- Management and marketing seminars
- Level three or four NVQ awards
- Preparation of lectures or articles
- Study of the Institute's Journal
- Health and safety workshops
- Up-dating on Standards and Regulations
- Private study and structured reading

On the last item it must be mentioned that private study does not mean a 'quick glance through a document' but an in -depth study to absorb the full implications of the text and most probably, the impact that it may have on ones own work environment or business.

To develop the theme of CPD further any suggestions on topics that would be of benefit to members and which might be suited to publication, or inclusion as separate material, in either the Journal or the Newsletter would be most helpful.

This is also a convenient place to mention the continued availability of the very excellent black leather personal organizers, each one being embossed with the IWSc initials in gold lettering and complete with a 1997 diary!

David Woodbridge FIWSc CPD Officer

BRANCH LINES

LIVERPOOL BRANCH

The Liverpool & District Branch, the very first regional branch of the Institute, held its inaugural meeting on February 13th 1957. Today, forty years on, the Liverpool Branch is still going strong, but the Timber Trade in the area is a far cry from what it was in those halcyon days. Only a small number of the companies trading in the fifties have survived the many recessions, re-organisations, buy-outs and closures of the intervening years. Most of the great timber names of Liverpool are now reduced to memories and old accounts books in dusty archives. Sadly, inevitably, many of the great personalities are gone also. In 1997 corporate anonymity is the order of the day and strategy is governed by the requirements of the Accountant and the Banker. Trading has been replaced by Management Reporting; faith in knowledge and experience makes way for daily worship in the shrine of the company computer. Time moves on, and nostalgia certainly isn't what it used to be.

Happily, there are still people who believe, and who remain true to the aims and purpose of those 1957 pioneers. Even more happily, not all have gone to the great Timber Town in the sky, and one in particular is very much alive and kicking and deserves a special mention. Back in 1957, Frank A. Latham was the very first chairman of the new Liverpool Branch and here he is, in 1997, still on the Committee, still contributing and still setting an example to us all. Forty years of unbroken service to the Institute, and in particular to the Liverpool Branch. In fairness to Frank, each year at the AGM, he offers to stand down, and "let some of you younger chaps get on with it". Each year we politely reply "No thanks. You started it, and you can just stick with it!". It has been suggested, only half in jest, that maybe Frank should step in as Chairman again. X-Files stuff, or what?

In 1977, as I was studying for my Institute Certificate, Frank and his colleagues were producing a booklet reviewing the first twenty years of Liverpool Branch activity. We hope this year to update this booklet and possibly to hold a special meeting with an historical theme. In conjunction with this we'd like to mount an exhibition of memorabilia which we could display at our 40th Anniversary Dinner in November. We have a fair amount of written material, but photographs, particularly informal photos of meetings, etc. would be very welcome, or for that matter anything else which might be of interest, like old examination papers or presentation certificates, for instance. Please phone me on 01352 759681 if you can help.

Paul G. Davies, AIWSc Branch Secretary.

WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

The new season commenced in September with a tour of the Silk Wood at Westonbirt Arboretum. The sun shone and the autumn colours looked superb. The October meeting was held jointly with the Joinery Managers' Association and we were treated to a demonstration of Felder multi-purpose wood machining equipment at John Lippiat's joiners shop at West End, Nailsea. John is a real enthusiast and provided us with a hearty supper afterwards including apple crumble and custard!

Martin Lane designs and makes furniture at the top end of the market from his base at the Street Farm Workshops at Acton Turville near Badminton. On a wet and blustery November evening we were treated to a fascinating account of the commissioning, design, and construction of a cigar humidor destined for sale at Harrods. Insight into the use of MDF in combination with high quality veneers and hardwoods made an excellent case study and we examined projects on the manufacture of retrospective copies of traditional furniture and the restoration of antiques.

The first presentation of the New Year on fire retardants was made by Stefan Carlin, Managing Director of Timber Treatments Ltd. at Clarks Wood in Bristol. With the support of the Joinery Managers Association we enjoyed an interactive and productive evening dwelling on the critical aspects of fire protection. Overall attendance has been excellent and Western Counties hopes to attract over a hundred people to an environmental debate on certification to be held in February at the University of Bath.

Martin Ansell, FIWSc Branch Secretary

LONDON BRANCH

London Branch has seen many changes over the years but perhaps none more so than in the last ten to twenty. The timber trade in London has changed dramatically in this time. However, the branch still retains one of the largest memberships of all in the IWSc and we have been making some strenuous efforts to tailor a branch meeting programme that works for all members of the region.

Our key effort has been to try to get members and guests to the branch meetings - so have we been successful? The answer to this has to be, in part yes, but not as much as we would like. In the past years we have had some excellent visits, notably to the V&A museum conservation department and, last year, to the Globe Theatre in Southwark. At the V&A we were very pleased to be joined by Australian Branch member Jack Norton and at the Globe we were treated to a real performance by our guide on the delights of medieval acting even in the 1990s (and some woody things as well). The timber material was actually covered in depth in an excellent lecture at the educational centre by Peter McCurdy and we are grateful to Bryan Gauld of the School of Architecture, Kingston University for organising this excellent visit. The day was made all the better by being done as a joint effort with Thames Valley and Chilterns Branch (TV&C) and in March 1997 London Branch is looking forward to being the guests of TV&C Branch at their visit to BRE. These visits have been popular with members and we have had good numbers to all of them - could it be the wine and 'nibbles' afterwards?

This season (1996/7) represents the end of an era for London Branch as it will probably be the last that we meet regularly at the Ski Club in Eaton Square. The branch has used the Ski Club for many years through the contact provided by Alan Mainstone and Don Scutt (who are members of both) and we have enjoyed an excellent relationship and good hospitality. The club is in the throes of moving and facilities may no longer be available to us. So, the November 96 and February 97 meetings may well have been our last at the old Ski Club. We will be trying out a new venue - The Cruising Association at Limehouse - for our AGM and a lecture by David Dickinson on the 'Restoration and preservation of RRS Discovery' on 7 May 1997. We would like to get the views of all London Branch members (and other interested IWSc members) on this venue so come along and tell us what you think! It promises to be an excellent venue.

I would particularly like to express my personal thanks to the London Branch Committee, speakers and members for their efforts on behalf of the branch in recent years.

Dr Richard Murphy FIWSc, Chairman

YORKSHIRE BRANCH

With Alun Walkins as Secretary and Mike Fenna holding the purse strings the Yorkshire Branch continues to prosper and my thanks go to them and to all our members who support the Branch.

We are now well on the way to completing a Yorkshire Branch Directory, listing our members and if you have not yet replied please do so now. The directory will include much useful information including current CBI Standards, useful contacts, timber related conversion tables, a glossary of timbers terms etc.

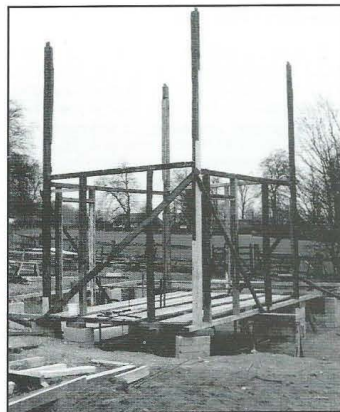
All members have been advised of our 1997 meetings so do now support us.

Neil Ryan, AIWSc Chairman

WHITTAKER'S COTTAGES

WHITTAKER'S COTTAGE

An investigation on behalf of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton near Chichester.



Whittaker's cottages rise again at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

During 1996 I was asked to assist in the identification of the timbers used in a pair of cottages that the Museum had acquired from a site near Ashstead, Surrey, for reconstruction at Singleton. The timber framed cottages were of particular interest to the Museum since they were constructed in a style that is a forerunner to the modern platform frame system.

They were built by a Mr Whittaker in 1859 when the railway to Ashstead was constructed across his land and it is thought that the railway company paid towards the cost of the development in compensation for the land requisitioned.

The purpose of the investigation of timbers used was to:

1. Ascertain the range of species involved
2. Enable replacements and repairs to be matched as far as possible, in species, characteristics and quality, to the original.
3. To provide information on the workings of the timber trade in mid-Victorian England

The identification process was carried out in part at the Museum's workshop, and later, on site during the reconstruction. In addition further identification was undertaken on small samples cut from a number of the studs.

Table 1. Timbers Used:

Sole Plate: Oak
Mid rails and roof: imported redwood
External frame: elm 66%, oak 17%, Scots pine 13%, other timbers: spruce, yew, beech, ash, poplar, walnut, mulberry, whitebeam
Internal partitions Scots pine and poplar
Floor joists, rafters, feather edge cladding, slating battens and plaster laths: imported redwood

From the sawing marks on the timber, the dimensions used, the seller's and joiner's surface markings and other features, it was possible to interpret many of the timber trade practices in mid Victorian England.

Surface markings on all the studs and sole plates showed that they had been pit sawn. As far as could be ascertained the saw logs were of small diameter (at most 300mm) with many sections being much smaller and almost half round. Many of the shorter pieces were far from straight and often contained severe slope of grain. With woods like mulberry and whitebeam present it is quite possible that much of the wood was sourced from local spinneys, hedgerows and orchards or from the land clearance as the railway was built.

It would therefore seem probable that the timber for the frame and sole plate was pit sawn by a local timber merchant or perhaps the timbers were pit sawn on site by the joiners as the cottages were built. The use of poplar (*Populus spp.*) may come as a surprise, however, this lower density hardwood would have presented the sawyers with rather less resistance than the other hardwoods used and for the non load bearing internal partitions it seems to have been a remarkably sensible, and probably deliberate, choice.



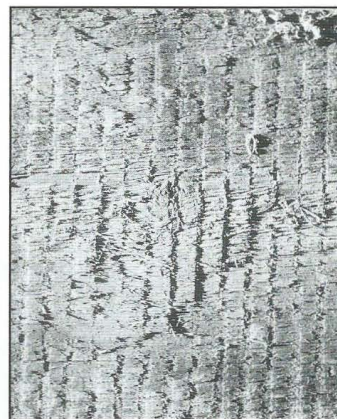
Interior view during reconstruction showing the locally sourced hardwood studs.

The redwood roofing timbers and F/E lining boards. The lighter coloured boards are replacements, all the other timbers are original.

The redwood used for the external cladding, floors and roof was quite definitely from imported stock and my hunch is that it mostly came from Sweden. The floor joists had been cut by pit saw ex imported hewn squares with the sellers marks inscribed on the surface. It was a custom of the time for the squared logs to be stored in log ponds by the importers and for the country merchants to despatch their pit sawyers to the docks, for maybe a month at a time, to convert the squares into the sizes required. When one considers the transport facilities available at the time one can appreciate the reason for this rather quaint procedure.

In Sweden the water driven frame saw was used for converting deals battens and boards. Steam driven machines only beginning to become a feature in a few of the most advanced mills during the 1860s. We can therefore assume that the imported timber used in Whittaker's cottages was from water powered mills. However, there were some marked improvements being made in sawblade production. For about a hundred years the Swedish Government had been trying to encourage the production and use of the fine-bladed saws rather than the course blades forged by

blacksmiths thus reducing waste. Evidence of the use of both types of blade were found in the redwood used. Another feature noted on the scantlings (2x3") used for rafters was the different sawing rates between the primary log break-down and that of the single flat cut made on, almost certainly, a deal frame. Whether this secondary conversion on the deal frame was carried out in England or in the country of origin is difficult to say. However, by the 1870s the deal frame saw was being advertised on the home market.



Sawcuts made by blacksmith produced blades in a Swedish water powered frame saw, mid 19th century

The plaster lath industry centred on Riga and Danzig. Using large virgin growth redwood logs the outer layers of sapwood were riven whilst the log was still green. One can get an idea of just how substantial these trees would have been from the curvature of the growth rings, which lie almost parallel to the width of the lath. What is more, when examined under the microscope, the incremental (radial) growth in one year was only 9 to 10 tracheids wide and of which about three only were latewood.

Methods of measure, rather like grading, have always been something of an anathema in the trade. This seems to have been much the same in the latter half of the 19th century. Whereas the Petrograd Standard (165 cubic feet) was the norm for sawn timber with typical scantlings, as used in the cottages, selling at £8 15s per std landed. Slating laths 3/4" x 2 1/4" were on sale ex dock at 1/9d per 100ft and plasterer's laths were imported from Danzig and Riga at between £9 and £10 per cubic fathom! (Price details from Timber Trades Journal 3 May 1873).

In conclusion, the construction of these cottages, and the way in which the available supplies of timber were exploited, provides a fascinating glimpse of a moment in time when the manufacturing refinements of the imported softwood trade from the Baltic were gathering acceptance in the country districts of England. It also shows how the local craftsmen, whilst still adhering to the traditional framing methods, were beginning to realize the advantages of being able to get good quality softwood cut, by the standards of the period, with remarkable accuracy and in lengths and sizes to suit most of their needs.

David Woodbridge FIWSC

SIDE LINES

IWWWS

Climb on your laminated, wood composite board and surf the world wide web! There is a huge amount of information out there for wood scientists, timber engineers, foresters and timber sales people. The quantity of really useful information is quite astonishing although there is also a vast amount of rubbish to avoid.

University people like myself have free access to the WWW (also referred to as the web or the internet) and it is quickly apparent that browsing can be a considerable waste of time so self discipline is essential. Home users need a telephone modem or a board inserted directly into their PC (about £100) which connects to a telephone socket and will then pay an organisation such as Compuserve, Demon or Pipex a £10 to £15 monthly fee to provide a link to the WWW and serve information. Whilst on-line, local call rates are charged for access all over the world to web sites or for sending electronic mail. Search engines such as **infoseek** and **yahoo** will perform searches for you and list the successful hits in ranked order of relevance. By using e-mail, communication to relatives on the other side of the world suddenly becomes very affordable! Eventually the IWWSc should be able to access most of its membership through this medium.

The IWWSc web address is temporary and it is hoped that HQ in Hughenden Valley will take over the site before too long to advertise all aspects of IWWSc activities. The address appears as follows:
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/~mssrd/iwsc.htm>

One full stop missed out will result in failure to access the site. In case you want to know, "http" stands for "hypertext transfer protocol" and "htm" for hypertext mark-up"! The pages have been mounted at the University of Bath by Richard Drake who is a Research Officer working on novel timber joints. A full description of the site can be found in the Editorial of the Winter 1996 edition of the Journal and it is easy to use by clicking on all the "live" underlined features including a link to the excellent Australian Branch pages.

It is worth listing a few superb sites here. Steve Shook's Directory of Forest Products, Wood Science and Marketing Online (<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~esw/fpm.htm>) is indispensable and huge. A moving circular saw graphic headlines an extensive list of tantalising international sites including the UK and Australian branches and Buckinghamshire College. On the marketing side, UK companies such as KDM International have led the way (<http://www.kdm.co.uk/>). The Forestry Commission (<http://www.Forestry.gov.uk/>) is developing a good site. At a more general level a favourite site of mine gives current Press Association updates on news, weather and TV programmes (<http://www.pa.press.net/tv/>). This information is used by local papers up and down the country.

The practical usefulness of the web as a database and method of communication is clear and I wish you many fascinating electronic trips in the future! You can e-mail me at (mssmpa@bath.ac.uk).

Martin Ansell FIWSc

BENEFITS TO IWWSc MEMBERS

"Members Select" offer an independent and professional insurance service covering Household - Motor - Personal Accident - Legal and Travel, and could show a saving of up to 30%. Phone 01233 661234 direct or contact the office for a quotation form.

Hospital and Medical Care Association give up to a 40% discount to IWWSc members covering

Medical Plus Plan which provides private health care with the freedom to choose the hospital, the specialist and the time which suits you best.

Hospital Sickness & Injury Cash Plan provides you with a daily tax-free benefit when you are in hospital because of sickness or injury.

Personal Accident Protection Plan provides up to £150,000 all year cover whether at home or abroad on holiday or business.

Phone HMCA direct 01423 866985 or the office for further details and application form.

And "Identity Wear"

IWWSc (old logo) Ties - £6.00

IWWSc (new logo) Ties - £8.00

Enamelled Lapel Pins (or tie pins) with new logo - £5.50

Enamelled Cuff Links (with new logo) - £13.50

Enamelled Letter openers (with new logo) - £5.50

Personal Organiser

Filofax - £23.00

All available at the Windsor Conference or from the Office.

MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

I had a plot of land and I planted it with trees
I planted it for birds, for butterflies and bees
For animals and flowers and for all that there would live
Now my piggy bank is empty and I have no more to give

So I went to see my banker, and I asked him for a loan
I have to feed my family and there is nothing that I own
Except the trees I planted and I gave those all away
To the birds and bees and butterflies to feed and breed and play

And what value to the warbler is your wood of even age
The birds that liked it earlier don't use it at this stage
Because you did not manage it, the timber is no good
There's nothing straight and nothing clean - just pea sticks,
pulp and firewood.

To feed and clothe your family you'll have to cut it down
And sell it as a golf course or a building site for town
If you'd managed it for timber you could still have planted trees
That beautified the landscape and helped the birds and bees

Now money isn't everything, though it helps to pay the bills
And all things have a hidden price - even strolling in the hills
And if we earn no money and buy things from abroad
We will have to sell our countryside, our priceless treasure hoard

Now money isn't everything, and I'd rather have a wood
That provided for all creatures - if only my trees could
It's possible with management, hard work and expertise
But not with wishful thinking - money doesn't grow on trees.

Quirkus

CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Council of Management wish to record its thanks to those listed below for their support as Corporate Members

Anglo-Norden Ltd	James Latham plc
J. Boddy	Marlow & Co. Ltd
Boulton & Paul Ltd	F.W. Mason & Sons Ltd
BSW Timber plc	MBM Forest Products Ltd
Buckinghamshire College	Medite of Europe Ltd
Richard Burbidge Ltd	Meyer International plc
COFI	Premdor Crosby Ltd
Coillte	Price & Pierce Ltd
Cuprinol Ltd	Protim Solignum Ltd
James Donaldson & Sons Ltd	Rentokil Ltd
Forbairt	Tech-Board Ltd
Forest Service N. Ireland	Timber Trade Federation
Hickson Timber Products Ltd	Timber Trades Journal
Howarth Timber Group Ltd	Timbmet Ltd
Hunter Timber Group Ltd	TRADA
James Jones & Sons Ltd	Travis Perkins plc
T.P. Jorleson & Co. Ltd	Henry Venables Ltd
Kotka College	

USE WOOD NOT PVC

Greenpeace UK are highlighting the environmental disadvantages of manufacturing and disposing of PVC. They are emphasising the advantages of using timber for many aspects of building.

Building the future - a guide to building without PVC
is available from Greenpeace, Tel: 0171 865 8100